

SHEBBEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Tuesday February 8th 2011 in the Church Room. Shebbear.

Present:

Chairman: Cllr R Johns.

Cllrs: G Slade. H Davis. R Clark. J Curtis. J Dungate. P Lomax. E Haste. J Stupple.

D/Cllr A Saywell. No members of the public. Clerk. David Walker.

Agenda. 2011. Commenced at 7-30 pm.

11. Apologies for Absence.

Cllr R Gliddon. (Family duties). C/Cllr B Parsons. (Commitments elsewhere).

12. Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda/ Any variations to Members Registration of Interests.

Cllr J Curtis declared a prejudicial interest in item 15(1) Mobile Takeaways, as she is employed at The Devilstone Inn, and left the room while the matter was discussed.

13. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on January 11th 2010.

All in agreement that the Draft Minutes, which had been previously circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record.

14. Clerks Report. Any matters arising from the Minutes.

(1) The new seat and litter bin had been delivered from Glasdon UK. Cllr Dungate offered to install the new seat and remove the decayed original on the left of the church path. Clerk will assist and will also deliver the new litter bin to Mr & Mrs Geary at New Inn.

(2) Parish Plan review. All Cllrs are now in possession of Parish Plans of 2005 for reference. D/Cllr Saywell advised that a review would need to be realistic and not a wish list, and remember it will have to be paid for. It was suggested, and agreed, that the decision to commence a review be deferred until after the May elections when the new council is in place.

7-38pm. PCSO Baker arrived, with apologies for being delayed. Chairman invited her to give her months report.

There had been 4 calls made to the Police during the month when a log had been raised. There had been a theft of 6 bales of shavings from a stable at Ruxhill. A road traffic collision, one instance of suspicious circumstances and one case of anti- social behaviour. Cllrs heard that PC Perry Hodgson, who had recently taken over as beat manager for the area covering Shebbear, had resigned from the Force. The post was, for the moment, being held open with cover being provided by PCSO Baker and PCSO Brown, with PC Kerry Wilson from Torrington in support if required. Sergeant Helen Rowell continues as supervisor of the Team.

7-47pm. Chairman thanked Melissa for her report and she left the meeting.

15. Agenda items for Discussion and Resolution.

(1) Mobile Takeaways. Cllr J Curtis left the room while this item was discussed. A letter received from the licensee of the Devilstone Inn was heard by Cllrs, which drew attention to the fact that there were now two mobile takeaway vans trading in The Square, one on Monday evenings and one on Thursday evenings, a situation that was threatening to bring about the closure of the Devilstone Inn due to unfair competition. The overheads of running the pub, which was already offering a takeaway service, meant that the vans, who had no such overheads, were able to undercut the pub prices. This had resulted in a drastic drop in takeaway trade for the pub on those evenings. Cllrs sympathised with the position the pub was in and would not want to see a local amenity lost, but, provided the vans were operating legally, which they apparently were, there was nothing to stop them continuing to trade. It was hoped that the pub could up its game and use its advantage of being established and on the spot, with a good reputation for food, to fight back. Cllrs wondered whether doing takeaways 6 nights a week, or serving through a dedicated hatch, for people who may not want to enter the bar might be considered. At the end of the day the consumer will decide the outcome. D/Cllr Saywell suggested that the Devilstone Inn apply for business rate relief under the circumstances. Agreed, that Clerk to convey the Cllrs suggestions on the matter by letter to the licensee.

8-03pm. Cllr Curtis returned to the meeting.

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15 (Cont).

- (2) Tarka Housing. The Managing Director of Tarka Housing, Nigel Barnard, was unable to attend this Meeting and sent his apologies. The anticipated discussion was postponed until the Meeting on March 8th.
- (3) Allotments. A progress report on the setting up of an allotment was given by Cllr Clark who said that encouraging progress was being made at present, but as details were still in the process of being finalised it would be preferred that they were not made public just yet.

16. District Councillors Report.

Mr Saywell reported that the Budget round was still in progress and it was too early to report progress. There was good news that the Council Tax would be frozen and the Government will pay an incentive grant. Money is still available for certain things, for instance Torrington Pool and Holsworthy Agri-Centre. On the down side the Cllrs Grants have been halved. Also Council staff levels have been scrutinised and there may be some redundancies, hopefully through natural wastage. It is worth remembering that redundancies have to be paid for and Employment Law adhered to, but there are opportunities for efficiencies. There would possibly be more details next month. Concerns had been raised that the appeal against the refusal to allow the building of a house on the garden at Byrne Vale, Shebbear, had been allowed and that the proposal could go ahead. The decision by the Inspector was final despite local opposition on justifiable grounds. The proposal by Shebbear College to erect 2 wind turbines is expected to reach the planning stage in the next few months. Chairman thanked Andrew for his attendance and report.

17. Planning.

(a) New Applications.

- (1) 1/1027/2011/FUL. Conversion & extension of barn for garaging & toilet/shower facilities. The Barn. Rowden Farm. Shebbear. For Mr & Mrs T Lott. All in favour. No Objections.
- (2) 1/0056/2011/AGR. Erect agricultural store. Wootten Farm. Shebbear. For Mr G Quance. All in favour. No Objections.

(b) Applications Granted

- (1) 1/0620/2010/FUL. Erection of dwelling on part garden of Byrne Vale. Shebbear. This application had previously been refused on the grounds of overdevelopment, but has been allowed after appeal. Received by Cllrs who were dismayed that valid grounds for refusal lodged by local people had been over ruled.
- (2) 1/1051/2011/FUL. Extension & garage at Fairview. Hay Hill, Shebbear. For Mrs S Page.

(d) Relevant adjacent Applications. None.

18. Finance.

- (1) Account for payment. Prop Cllr Lomax, seconded Cllr Curtis, with all in favour, that payment of £504.56 be made to Glasdon UK Ltd for the new seat and litter bin. Bank Balances to January 28th, received by Cllrs.

19. Correspondence.

- (1) Shebbear Village Hall. Cllrs received the thanks for the grant, and the progress of the improvements.
- (2) Buckingham Palace Garden Party 2011. All agreed that Chairman and Mrs Johns names be put forward for inclusion in the Devon draw for invitations.
- (3) Tarka Housing describing their policies for matching tenants to housing. To be presented in person by the Managing Director at the March Parish Council Meeting.
- (4) Letters from Mr & Mrs Pearce of Ruxhill Farm and Mr & Mrs Pearce of The Linhay, Ruxhill concerning the improvements that had been made at Berry Park Barn Corner and the threat to their water supplies. As the dispute over the work that had been done over 6 weeks ago was still in the process of being investigated by Devon CC and hadn't involved the parish council, Cllrs were unaware that there was a threat to water supplies to properties in Ruxhill, as no interruptions had been reported. Clerk to reply to the Pearces with details of the situation and to suggest an assessment by SW Water of any threat to supplies.
- (5) The Big Sheep. The proprietors are hoping to increase publicity for the visitor attraction and offer incentives which could be used in parish events this summer. Posters will be displayed. Circulation Folder Received by Cllrs.

20. Items for the Council Meeting Agenda on Tuesday February 8th 2011, and any other business at the Chairmans discretion.

- Cllr Davis asked that the "Midas" signs be removed from the village now that the sales have finished. There being no other Business the Meeting ended at 9-10 pm.